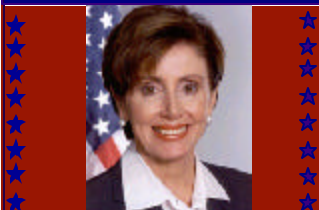




U.S. House of Representatives



Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi

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The Pelosi Report

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Dear Friends:

On May 17, 1954, the Supreme Court in **Brown v. Board of Education** rejected a system of inequality in education that many in this country had accepted as a natural state of affairs. The court's ruling in **Brown** was one of the most significant decisions in our country's history. It was the culmination of 100 years of legal challenges to segregated education. As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of **Brown**, it is clear that access to and equality of education are more vital to success than ever, and we still have a long way to go.

Fifty years after segregation was declared unconstitutional, many poor and minority children are concentrated in schools that fail to meet their needs.

The 'No Child Left Behind Act,' which passed with bipartisan support, was intended to hold schools accountable while providing them with the resources needed to improve their performance. Yet, the ink was barely dry on the bill when it became clear that the Bush Administration had no intention of providing the funding authorized in the new law, preferring instead to squeeze public services and provide tax cuts to the wealthiest Americans.

The Administration's proposed budget shortchanges disadvantaged schools and special education students, cuts after school programs and bilingual education, and completely eliminates many programs, ranging from dropout prevention to rural education.

We must reject all forms of unequal education in this country. America has the resources to provide all children with a good public education, and we cannot afford to do anything less.

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi

Nancy Pelosi
House Democratic Leader

Fulfilling the Promise: 50th Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education



Earlier this month, Leader Pelosi co-hosted a special event commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education with Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle, Congressional Black Caucus Chairman Elijah Cummings (D-MD), Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA), and other Members of Congress and special guests. In her opening remarks, Leader Pelosi stated, "Equal education for all - this is the unfinished business of our nation. So let us fulfill the promise of Brown and build one America, of equality and opportunity, where every child realizes their God-given potential. And let us resolve to finally 'make justice a reality for all God's children'."



Hilary Shelton, NAACP Washington Bureau Chief, Leader Pelosi, Soloist Patricia Norris Bonds, John Marshall, Kayla Sargent, and Elizabeth Davis.

During the event, House and Senate Democrats also released "Fulfilling the Promise," a report highlighting educational accomplishments over the past 50 years and today's educational

challenges and opportunities. For a copy of Fulfilling the Promise, contact Tracie Pough at Tracie.Pough@mail.house.gov.



"None of us got where we are solely by pulling ourselves up by our bootstraps. We got here because somebody . . . bent down and helped us pick up our boots."

- Thurgood Marshall

Are You Better Off Than You Were Four Years Ago?



Are you better off than you were four years ago?

When President Bush took office, we had a \$236 billion budget surplus, and the nation

had created 22 million jobs over the previous eight years. The number of uninsured had decreased for the first time in 12 years, and the country had the lowest poverty rate in 20 years. Here's what's happening in our country today since President Bush took office:

- **8.2 million Americans are looking for work while 2.2 million private sector jobs have been lost.**
- **The number of citizens without health care swelled by 3.8 million.**
- **Wages and salaries grew at their slowest rate in more than 20 years.**
- **College tuition increased 28 percent.**
- **Family health care premiums shot up 36%.**
- **The record \$236 billion surplus became a record \$ 521 billion deficit.**

House Democrats are working to reverse these trends and return the opportunity to work hard and get ahead to every American. Democrats are moving forward on plans to encourage companies to create jobs here at home, provide opportunities for young people to get a good education and make affordable health care available to working families.

To learn more visit:

<http://HouseDemocrats.gov/AreYouBetterOff>



Honoring the Greatest Generation

On Memorial Day weekend, a grateful nation will honor the Greatest Generation that our country has ever produced - men and women who in their youth literally saved the world. The magnificent National World War II Memorial will be a lasting tribute to the millions who served and the hundreds of thousands who gave their lives.



Leader Pelosi joined by Mr. Charles E. McGee, Colonel USAF (Retired), Immediate Past National President Tuskegee Airmen Incorporated, at recent WWII event.

This generation came from big cities and small towns. They became soldiers, sailors, naval airmen and Marines. They went to distant places they had never heard of to liberate people they did not know.

Even more than winning the war, this generation won the peace. With wisdom and vision, America led the world in creating the institutions to preserve what we had won - a bold Marshall Plan to rebuild Europe and turn foes into friends, a strong NATO Alliance to defend the Western democracies, and a United Nations to serve as what President Truman called 'a great instrument of peace'.

These lessons of history remind us that we must not only show our strength, we must also show our greatness as a nation.

And as a nation, our greatness flows in part from how we care for those who have served in uniform. Just as our troops pledge to leave no soldier behind on the battlefield, we must leave no veteran behind here at home. May God bless our veterans and their families. God bless our men and women in uniform, and God bless the United States of America.